goods, raw material, components etc. are also permitted without payment of central excise duty.

Expansion of JNPT Mumbai

1342. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any expansion plans for JNPT Mumbai;

(b) if so, the detaiis thereof; and

(c) whether the port will be privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Jawaharlal Nehru Port additional terminals for handling containers, liquid bulk and berth for handling feeder vessels are under implementation.

(c) There is no plan to privatise Jawaharlal Nehru Port. Private investment is sought to build new terminals involving huge capital cost.

Medical Fitness of IRCC officers

1343. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the clarification obtained by his Ministry from DGBR/BRO on Medical Fitness Certificate of IRCC officers;

(b) the details of officers who have not submitted Medical Fitness Certificate to date in IRCC;

(c) what is the rule position in this regard and what action has been taken by MOST and IRCC in the matter;

(d) the post-wise transfers made as per CVC directives to IRCC from sensitive posts/Departments during the last two-three years; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken immediately in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Ministry of Surface Transport had requested DGBR/BRO and IRCC to furnish

information about the medical fitness of one ex-officer of DGBR who is working with Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd. (IRCC). It has been intimated to Ministry that the said officer was medically examined and found fit by the Central Standing Medical Board, Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi vide their medical report dated 6.10.1975.

(b) In all, there are 43 offices, (from Govt. Deptts./Undertakings) in various categories who joined the Corporation 1979 onwards and in respect of whom Medical Fitness Certificate on joining the corporation is not available in their records. Out of these, 36 Nos. of officers initially joined the corporation on deputation & were subsequently absorbed in the Corporation and only 7 Nos. joined the corporation on direct recruitment basis.
(However, out of above 43 officers 31 had already left the corporation).

(c) As per Rule 3.2 of the approved R&P Rules of the Corporation, every person selected for appointment to a post in the corporation shall be required to undergo a medical examination of fitness by an appropriate medical officer/authority not below the rank of a District Civil Surgeon and to produce a certificate of fitness from the said authority. The fee paid for such medical examination shall be borne by the corporation.

Provided that

(a) No such medical certificate of fitness shall be required to be produced by:—

(i) Persons on deputation in the corporation and subsequently absorbed.

(ii) Persons who resign from service of the Central or State Govt. deptt./Public Undertaking to take up appointment in the Corporation provided they have already undergone medical examination by an appropriate Medical officer/ authority and been found fit.

In view of the rules explained above, the Management at that time did not insist on submission of Medical fitness certificate from the officers as all these officers were from Govt. departments.

(d) and (e) In absence of any project work in the Corporation

there is hardly any department which can be considered sensitive. However, as per directives received from vigilance Department in 1997, periodic action for rotational posts has to be taken. Accordingly, the incumbents to the post of Cashier/Stores in-charge have been changed from time to time.

Construction of new National Highways in Assam

1344. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct new National Highways connecting Doboka-Lanka-Lumding-Maibange-Haflong-Silchar in the State of Assam, as being declared by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of the initiative taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Stretch of National Highway No. 54 connecting Doboka & Silchar via Lanka, Lumding and Haflong has been entrusted to Government of Assam for its maintenance and development in May 1999. An amount of Rs. 71.50 lakh has been allocated for the maintenance of this National Highway during 1999-2000.

Restarting of work on Jatinga-Silchar sector by BRTF

1345. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main road connecting from Jatinga-Silchar taken up by Border Road Task Force (BRTF) from the State of Assam has been suddenly stopped;

(b) if so, the details of the alternative arrangements made so far by Government to restart the work;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present status of the aforesaid road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF